

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 at a device, opening a first connection to a server;
3 establishing an information exchange protocol for
4 communicating on the first connection;
5 at a device, opening a second connection to the server;
6 selecting an active connection from connections including
7 the second connection; and
8 communicating information configured for the information
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 communicating information configured for the information
3 exchange protocol using the first connection as the active
4 connection prior to selecting the second connection as the
5 active connection.
- 6 3. The method of claim 1 in which the second connection
7 is opened prior to establishing the information exchange
8 protocol.
- 9 4. The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the
10 connections is selected as the active connection.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 in which two or more of the
2 connections are selected as the active connection.

1 6. The method of claim 1 in which the second connection
2 includes a wireless connection.

1 7. The method of claim 1 or 6 further comprising
2 monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from
3 the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate,
4 latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and
5 reselecting the active connection to optimize the
6 parameter.

1 8. The method of claim 1 in which the information is
2 communicated in packets that include aggregated information
3 for more than one application.

1 9. The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the
2 information includes a command that is effected by a module on
3 the server.

1 10. The method of claim 1 in which the information
2 comprises an aggregation of information from applications, the
3 extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on
4 an indicator of priority for information exchange associated
5 with each application.

1 11. The method of claim 9 in which the command causes
2 the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from
3 the remote system, and effect a response without transmitting
4 the reply to the device.

1 12. A method comprising:
2 at a server, accepting connections from a device for
3 communicating information configured by an information
4 exchange protocol;
5 detecting or selecting one or more of the connections of
6 as an active connection; and
7 communicating information configured by the information
8 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1 13. The method of claim 12 in which a single one of the
2 connections is selected as the active connection.

1 14. The method of claim 12 in which the information is
2 communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets
3 includes aggregated information for different applications on
4 the device.

1 15. The method of claim 12 in which the information
2 includes a command for a module.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising effecting
2 the command.

1 17. The method of claim 16 in which the module effects
2 the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply
3 from the remote server and effecting a response without
4 transmitting the reply to the device.

1 18. The method of claim 12, 13, or 17 in which the
2 information is an aggregation of information for applications,
3 the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent
4 on an indicator of priority for information exchange
5 associated with each application.

1 19. An apparatus comprising a processor and software
2 configured to cause the processor to:
3 open a first connection to a server;
4 establish an information exchange protocol;
5 open a second connection to a server;
6 select an active connection from connections including
7 the second connection; and
8 communicate information configured for the information
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection
5 integrity; and
6 reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information
2 is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the
3 packets includes aggregated information for different local
4 applications.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1 23. An article comprising a machine-readable medium that
2 stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions
3 causing a machine to:

4 open a first connection to a server;
5 establish an information exchange protocol;
6 open a second connection to a server;
7 select an active connection from the connections; and
8 communicate information configured for the information
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1 24. The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the
2 connections is selected as the active connection.

1 25. The article of claim 23 in which the instructions
2 further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a
3 parameter selected from the group consisting of signal
4 strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and
5 connection integrity; and
6 reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1 26. The article of claim 23 in which the information is
2 communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets
3 includes aggregated information for different local
4 applications.

1 27. The article of claim 23 in which the information
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1 28. A system comprising:

2 a device, a server, and communication links, in which the
3 device is configured to:

4 open a first connection to the server using one of the
5 communication links;

6 establish an information exchange protocol;

7 open a second connection to the server using another of
8 the communication links;

9 select an active connection from connections including
10 the second connection;

11 communicate information configured for the information
12 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1 29. The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the
2 communication links includes a wireless communication link.

1 30. The system of claim 28 or 29 in which the device is
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection
5 integrity; and

6 reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.